

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7504

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, IS

SUBJ: EXPROPRIATION OF ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE PROPERTY

REF: STATE 255132; JERUSALEM 1698

1. ON OCTOBER 28 I DISCUSSED ABOVE SUBJECT WITH DEPUTY MAYOR BENVENISTI, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF CITY PLANNING. BENVENISTI NOT ONLY CONFIRMED DISTRICT COMMISSIONER LEVY'S EARLIER STATEMENT THAT ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE PROPERTY NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN CURRENT HEARINGS BUT ELABORATED FURTHER. BENEVISTI SAID ADDITIONAL STUDIES HAD REVEALED IT IMPRACTICAL TO CONSTRUCT SEGMENT OF PROJECTED NEW ROAD IN AREA TO NORTHWEST OF INSTITUTE'S LOCATION. THEREFORE, PROJECT FOR NEW ROAD HAD BEEN DROPPED AND THERE WAS NO RPT NO NEED EXPROPRIATE A PORTION OF ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE'S PROPERTY AS HAD BEEN SKETCHED ON PREVIOUS CITY PLANNING DOCUMENTS. BENVENISTI ALSO CONFIRMED STATEMENT BY LEVY THAT ONLY MATTER CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE RITZ HOTEL WHICH IS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE'S LAND. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST, BENENISTI AGREED THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH MYERS TO CONFIRM FOREGOING.

2. WHEN I REPORTED ABOVE CONVERSATION TO MYERS, HE WAS INITIALLY HIGHLY SKEPTICAL AND SAID THAT BENVENISTI'S STATMENTS DID NOT JIBE WITH INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM AS TO JUST WHAT PROPERTY

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WAS INVOLVED. SUBSEQUENTLY, MYERS CALLED TO SAY HIS ATTORNEY

HAD HAD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH LEVY AND WAS PERSONNALLY SATISFIED THAT ALBRIGHT PROPERTY NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION AT PRESENT TIME.

3. MYERS AND SHEHADEH WISH TO FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF EXPROPRIATION. THEY HAVE DRAFTER LETTER TO LEVY ASKING HIM TO STATE IN WRITING THAT ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE'S PROPERTY NOT ONLY NOT AFFECTED BY CURRENT HEARINGS ON PLANNING SCHEME 1981 BUT THAT IT WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY FUTURE PLANS.

4. I AM ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE BENVENISTI/MYERS MEETING BUT EARLIEST THAT THIS CAN TAKE PLACE NOW APPEARS TO BE NOVEMBER 2.

5. COMMENT: BASED ON MY CONVERSATIONS WITH LEVY AND BENVENISTI, I AM SATISFIED THAT EXPROPRIATION OF ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE'S PROPERTY IS NOT NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. WHILE I WISH MYERS AND SHEHADEH WILL, I AM NOT SANGUINE THEY WILL SUCCEED IN OBTAINING AN OFFICIAL COMMITMENT THAT PROPERTY MIGHT NOT BE INVOLVED IN FUTURE TOWN PLANNING SCHEMES. MYERS HAS ADVISED PARENT ORGANIZATION IN U.S. AND AMERICAN SCHOLARS TO SEND MESSAGES OF PROTEST TO LEVY AND HE BELIEVES THESE MESSAGES HAVE HAD BENEFICIAL EFFECT.
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